

NATIONAL INTELLIGENCER.

THE SOUTHERN CONVENTION QUESTION.

We give to-day as many additional extracts on this subject, from the Southern Press, as we can make room for, reserving space only at the close of them for an extract from a paper published in the Keystone State, which, being an argument for the Union, had it not been from the pen of one of the Fair Sex, whose eloquent strains in its behalf are sufficient to warm the coldest heart to the cause, we should not have drawn testimony from that quarter, in which all voices are in its favor.

FROM THE NEW ORLEANS "BEE" OF FEBRUARY 8.
"We can live with the North contented if they will allow us the compact of the Union. We can live perfectly well without them, whenever they shall resolve to turn that compact into an instrument of oppression."
The foregoing passage from an article in the Charleston Mercury is a fair specimen of the style of the ultra Southern journals when discussing the Slavery question. The paragraph, brief as it is, contains two capital errors. First, the class of persons who endorse the Mercury cannot live with the North contented under any circumstances whatever. The same hot-headed party which now threatens dissolution rather than see slavery excluded from California was disposed to employ that violent remedy eighteen years ago, rather than behold the protective system engrafted upon the policy of the country; for those who constitute this party deem the "compact of the Union" violated, only so long as their particular notions are respected. In the matter of slavery, we admit that they are not far from being right; but, if ever that detestable interest of the South, and pernicious to all merely political considerations; but, if the Slavery question were settled this very day, the Horrors of South Carolina would ingeniously discover some other source of grievance, over which they would work themselves frantic, and thereby gain their measures of destruction. They are eternal rebels, and for the last twenty years we have never known them otherwise.

The second grave allegation is the assumption that the South can live perfectly well without the North. God forbid that the experiment should be tried; but, if ever that disastrous period should arrive when the South would be isolated from the affection, sympathy, and political identity of the North, the Mercury and its coadjutors might properly be said to live with the North, but not to be quite so perfectly easy a matter. It is not the mere loss of political comfort and wealth that might be apprehended, since no country enriched with so many bounties of Providence is likely to suffer in this respect by the severance of the ties which unite it with another. But it is the loss of strength and dignity, the disruption of those potent bonds which link us with our brethren of other sections; the dissolution of our homogeneity; the certainty of frequent collisions with our former associates; the awakening of bitter feelings of hostility and rancor, where fraternal concord and ardent friendship were wont to dwell; the isolation; the jealousy; the hatred and the heart-burning; it is all this which would render us uncomfortable, and preclude us from living "perfectly well" without the North. In many other aspects we would be likely to find our situation unpleasant. Considerations which would restrain the North from outrage would lose their weight. The compact being at an end, the stronger party would pursue its policy and wreak its vengeance without regard to abstract sentiments of justice. In reality, we would be much worse off than we are now, and the very question which is at present an endless source of irritation and anxiety, would, in all probability, become a tenfold greater evil, and involve us in perils and disturbances a thousand times more fearful than any which are now apprehended.

The heady and factious spirit which prate so glibly of disunion might profitably ponder over the prospect, in the event of the realization of the dream which they so lightly find it less agreeable when colored by sober reason, than when viewed through the fallacious coloring of a heated imagination. For our own part, we do not believe in the possibility of disunion; but, if we did, we should look to the future as an epoch pregnant with evils more dire than war, pestilence, and famine.

FROM THE RALPH (N. C.) REGISTER OF FEBRUARY 16.
It is time now for the prudent and discreet men of the North to unite with the prudent and discreet men of the South in bringing about reconciliation and harmony. If justice and good sense can prevail this result can be effected. Would it not be better for all of us that we should unite to exist, this temporary lull in the strife of opposing elements, to reflect fully upon the dismal consequences that must inevitably succeed a continued and precipitate indulgence in the angry feelings that have thus far characterized the present session of Congress? We imagine that those North and South, who are the friends of a dissolution of the Union, have given but little consideration to the grave topic upon which they descend with such fluency. Have they asked themselves where the line of separation is to take place? And have they contemplated the necessary consequences that are to ensue?

We hazard little in saying that North Carolina would be very slow to acquiesce in the severance of the Union. Any action of Congress touching the institution of slavery, as it exists within her borders, would arouse every heart and nerve every arm to resistance: she is the last State in the Union that would submit to an invasion of constitutional rights; but we apprehend that the friends of a dissolution of the Union, within the pale of the constitution, as sanctioned by the Supreme Court and by precedent, she will never listen to disunion.

Along the Northern border of the Southern Confederacy, in the event of a dissolution of the Union, for more than a thousand miles, would be a military frontier. The purpose of the South, in the event of a dissolution of the Union, would be to exist, this temporary lull in the strife of opposing elements, to reflect fully upon the dismal consequences that must inevitably succeed a continued and precipitate indulgence in the angry feelings that have thus far characterized the present session of Congress? We imagine that those North and South, who are the friends of a dissolution of the Union, have given but little consideration to the grave topic upon which they descend with such fluency. Have they asked themselves where the line of separation is to take place? And have they contemplated the necessary consequences that are to ensue?

A bond of union exists in the length and course of the Mississippi river, binding as it does the free and slave States by the strongest tie of interest. At what point on its rapid tide could the stream of commerce be arrested? Any attempt on the part of the Southern Confederacy to prevent the free navigation of the Mississippi could not fail to produce resistance from the Northwest. They would demand a free passage to the Gulf for their produce and merchandise, as well as a free port upon the river, for the purpose of transshipment; and any denial of these privileges would produce war. The river, and the country bordering on its banks—on one side through its whole course, and on both sides at its mouth—were purchased with money drawn from the common treasury, and would not be surrendered without war.

Such are some of the dangers and difficulties which can be easily foreseen as the inevitable consequences of a dissolution of the Union. We have spoken plainly upon the subject, as a mere question of interest—that being the "value of the Union," in the estimation of some persons. But we are aware that the bold people who are the friends of the proposed Southern Convention, will listen to none of the grovelling suggestions of interest. They cherish it as the inalienable legacy of patriot fathers, whose wisdom and patriotism framed it, as the only safeguard of liberty itself. But we have thought fit to consider the question in its lowest point of view, and to show how essential is the Union to the every-day interests of the people.

FROM THE LEBURG (VA.) WASHINGTONIAN.
[At a public meeting held at Leesburg on Monday, the 11th inst., a resolution was unanimously adopted calling a meeting, "without respect to party," on the 22d of February, for defining the position of the people in regard to the proposed Southern Convention. In an editorial of the "Washingtonian," we note these remarks:—

"The proposed Southern Convention we look upon as a most dangerous movement—fraught, indeed, with more serious danger to the prosperity of our glorious Union than almost any thing that the American people are susceptible of cherishing. It would be mainly composed of the 'Hotspurs' of the South, from whose basty and rash action nothing but evil could result. Let prudence, moderation, calmness, and patriotism rule the day, and we doubt not that the dark cloud now hovering over our blessed land will be dispelled. Let the people whose lives depend on the permanence of the Union, take the business into their own hands, and give to it that calm and deep and serious consideration its gigantic importance demands, and all will be well. Of all bodies to deliberate and act upon such a question as the dissolution of the Union, (for that would in fact be the question, although in our humble opinion the issue depends on the permanence of the Union,) save and deliver us from such a body of hot-headed and ambitious men, partisans and politicians."

FROM THE CHARLESTON (VA.) REPUBLICAN.
VIRGINIA RESOLUTIONS.—We have placed in another column the preamble and resolutions in reference to the will of the people, and kindred subjects, as agreed by the joint committee of the two Houses of our General Assembly. We give them to our readers for just what they are worth, leaving every one to place his own estimate on their value. While we are opposed to the will of the people, and all agitation of the slavery question, coming from the North or South, we are equally opposed to all agitation by State Legislatures of the people and of the States in Congress assembled. We ask what good has resulted to the State or to the Union from all the resolutions upon Federal relations passed by our Legislature from '88 to the present time? But, had the time and attention the Legislature has devoted to the affairs of the General Government in all that time been devoted to devise the means of developing the resources of the State, educating the people, who would not say that she would not now occupy the first rank among the States of the Union? Virginia taught the true theory and principles of Democratic government; the other States have reduced them to practice, while Virginia has been long years teaching the other States, by precept and example, to meddle with the affairs of the Federal Government. They, more wise, first attended to their own legitimate domestic concerns, placed themselves in the high road of prosperity, but now, unfortunately, are following the example of Virginia, and are now mischievously agitating the country by their interference with the affairs of Congress. We are of the humble opinion that the time of our Delegates and Senators should be devoted to the business for which the people sent them to Richmond.

FROM THE MARTINBURG (VA.) GAZETTE.
"THE SOUTHERN SECOND THOUGHT."—It is manifest that the more sensible and rational portion of the American people, of every section and of every party, have hitherto resolutely and firmly believed that the foundations of our glorious Union were too deeply imbedded in the affections of the people to be shaken by any "storm, or tempest, or whirlwind" of passion which might prevail. Late events have served to arouse them from their condition of fancied safety, and, in their might, to check the headlong career of the demagogue and the fanatic; the "second thought" has become one of absorbing interest throughout the length and breadth of our land—public meetings are being held—Union meetings in the North and in the South—and those high places are beginning to learn that there is a power to which each is answerable, and which must be obeyed. This power, superior to the ambitious ambition, the unscrupulous demagogue, will to the "disunion" and the "fanatic," "HITHERTO SHALL THOU COME AND NO FARTHER." The fact is clearly discernible that the North will not persist in driving the South to extreme measures, so much to be dreaded. The South will ask no more than her constitutional rights. Both are beginning to see that it would be folly in the extreme to sever the holy bonds that have been sealed by the best blood of the Revolution, and made us a great and happy nation. Shall this Union be dissolved? The spirits of the departed heroes and sages of '76 answer no. Go to the battlefields of Bunker's Hill, of Bennington, of Saratoga, and of Yorktown—where the blood of the brave has been shed—stand before the tomb of Washington—call up the spirits of the MARIONS, the SCOTTS, the PICKENS, and listen to the united voice of all, saying, in tones of thunder, "Liberty and Union, or, Anarchy, Discord, and Destruction must prevail, then dig up our bones, place them upon our country's altars, and let it stand in the place where all is peace and harmony, for there is my home."

A RALLY FOR THE UNION.
FROM THE LANCASTER COUNTY (Pa.) FARMER, FEB. 16, 1850.
EDITED BY LYDIA FINE PERKINS.
DISUNION.—Is it, can it be possible that men are so mad, so utterly irrational, as really to contemplate a dissolution of this great republic? Surely it cannot be. It is a project meet only for the thought of a demon or an idiot.
Look at our country now. Nearly half the globe, embracing every variety of soil and climate; yielding the productions of every zone; rich in agriculture, manufactures, arts and commerce; overflowing with all that is necessary to human life and comfort; casting up from its bowels untold treasures of iron, copper, and gold. Aye, behold this widespread treasure-house, peopled with the free, the strong, the enterprising of all nations under the sun, leagued and banded together by a common interest; the inhabitants of each peculiar section drawing forth the natural resources and wealth of their peculiar province, and, by an admirable system of domestic commerce, bartering and interchanging with each other, so that every State enjoys the productions of each of her sisters.
It is not this great country for which we bless our patriot fathers; the freedom which they won in hunger, in cold, and in rage; marching barefoot in winter, and encountering the foe, faint for lack of food; the freedom which they bought with suffering and death, this is not the legacy for which we honor their ashes. The country might groan in agony, be made a desert by oppression and despair. Freedom is no hereditary inheritance, but dwells with those only who are worthy of her.
The bequest of our fathers, the palladium of our prosperity, the stamen of our existence, the legacy which they bequeathed us, is our Union. Union is our strength. Union is our security. Our beauty, our honor, and our glory is this perfect Union. Upon its strong arch rests the temple of Liberty; and we know that on no other foundation can the dome of the goddess stand.
This Union, so glorious, so beautiful, binding together children of all lands, to dwell in brotherhood from the North to the South; from the wild Atlantic to the cradle bed of the Pacific sleeper. Who will shake this broad land? Who will dash to pieces the palladium of our rest? Who will break down the noble arch on which rests the temple of Liberty? Who will sever the nerves and arteries that diffuse life and feeling through this mighty body politic? Who will make us poor and despicable, a scorn and a pity to the now admiring world?
Oh, God forbid that such fearful evil be brought upon us. Let the rash hand that shall be raised to strike, fall palsied and withered; and let the tongue that shall advocate the suicidal madness, rot within its vocal hall; and let the names of all such be buried in infamy, for ever and ever!
Let local interests be sacrificed, let sectional feelings be repressed, let irreconcilable opinions and interest be laid as a sacrifice upon the altar of the commonwealth; around which let the North and the South, the East and the West join hands, and swear, at whatever cost, at whatever loss, at whatever sectional sacrifice, to defend, protect, strengthen, and perpetuate that for which our fathers bled, that for which Washington lived and labored, for which all the good and the great are ready to toil and to die. The tower of our strength—the ark of our safety—the seal of our prosperity—the bond of our Union!

PAINFUL CALAMITY, WITH ITS MORAL.—On Saturday evening, a daughter of Mr. RUTUS S. KING, about 16 years of age, residing near Abington Square, New York, was so fearfully burnt upon her arms and chest that her life is in jeopardy. She was in a neighbor's house, where the lady was cleaning a pair of soiled gloves with camphine. Miss KING remarked that she would clean her own, and pouring out the liquid, rubbed her gloves hands together, and then went to the fire to dry them. She was cautioned not to go too near, as camphine was inflammable, and just as she replied that she would be cautious, the gas evolved by this dangerous liquid instantly took fire. The flames at once caught her dress, and in a few moments she was enveloped in a deadly conflagration. The neck of the lady she was visiting. Her screams were frightful, and in struggling to release herself from the burning girl, she both fell upon the floor. In the meanwhile a servant girl ran in and with great presence of mind, pulled up the carpet, which she threw about her, while the lady of the house went for water. She returned as soon as possible, and taking away the carpet, which had only smothered the fire, threw on the water and extinguished what remained.
Medical aid was had almost immediately, and it was found that her hands, arms, neck, and chest, were dreadfully burnt almost to the bone, and her face badly scorched. Her sufferings were excruciating, and it was feared on Saturday night she would not survive. Last evening Dr. KINGSLAND, the physician, thought her life might be preserved, but it is doubtful, if she survives, whether her arms or hands will ever be capable of use. More than five minutes must have elapsed before the fire was extinguished, and during this time her agony was frightful. The clothes of the lady of the house, and her neck and hands, were also considerably injured by the flames.
This painful calamity adds another to many former admonitions concerning the use of camphine. It must be remembered, it is not necessary that a fire should come in contact with this liquid to ignite it. The gas which is evolved when camphine is poured from one vessel to another, or which is thrown off by sudden evaporation, as in the case of drying the gloves before a fire, is the source of peril. Let this painful accident, and the suffering resulting from it, be remembered as a warning.—Journal of Commerce.

THE ST. LOUIS REPUBLICAN OF THE 10th inst. states that GONSALEVE and RAYMOND DE MONTREUIL were brought into court on Thursday, and were charged with the guilt of the murder of THOMAS C. BARNUM and ALBERT JONES, on the night of the 19th October last. The prisoners were then remanded to jail to await their trial, which (the Republican says) will probably not take place until the March term of the court.

THE NEW YORK "COMMERCIAL" is in error when it throws out the intimation that the "dissatisfied spirit of the South is pretty much concentrated at the Capitol in Washington, and that, if it exists elsewhere to any extent, it exists in a state of very considerable diffusion"—in error, we mean, if it would seek to produce the impression at the North that there is no need for the ultraists in that section to cease their present course and agitation. We admit, and we are glad of it, that the politicians are ahead of the people. This will prevent the politicians from pushing their intentions beyond what the people will permit. But the North ought to know and to be informed that there is throughout the South a very "concentrated" and deep feeling on the subject in question, and that there is great danger in urging matters any further. The Conservative Union Republican party at the South are doing all they can to allay excitement and to restrain evil action. They will not weary in well doing. But they hope to see a corresponding action on the part of the friends of the Union at the North. The South must not be driven to the wall by the fanaticism of Northern disturbers. Let the friends of the Union now unite to do justice and to save the country.—Alex. Gazette.

ARCHITECTURE AND THE SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION.—We understand that the Regents, at their last meeting, adopted Mr. HANCOCK's scheme of an Architectural Gallery, noticed some time since in the public prints. It differs from similar establishments in European countries in its select character. It is proposed, in fact, to be a collection of models or masterpieces of architecture, executed in a style corresponding with other productions of the gallery. We like the liberality of this provision. Architecture is to be encouraged only by treating its professors with respect in our institutions of learning, and by honoring its best productions in our galleries of art with something more than a wood-cut or carpenter's elevation.

COLLECTION OF THE REVENUE.—THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY has directed the Collectors to suspend the operation of his circulating circular of a previous date. The revenue cutters are to be continued in active service, as heretofore. The expenses attending the appraisement of merchandise are no longer to be charged to importers, and the expenses for weighing, gauging, and measuring goods are only to be charged to the owners of such goods in cases where it is required that such charge shall be made by Mr. Walker's tariff law of 1846. The compensation of Officers of the Customs is to be no longer withheld.

FOR CALIFORNIA.—The California fever still rages. The steamers of all the lines to Chagres for two months to come, are full of passengers by engagement, and tickets can only be obtained at the agents. The number of sailing vessels advertised and loading at New York, is about fifty. Thirteen are up directly for Sacramento City, and the remainder, thirty-five, for San Francisco. Of the latter twenty are ships.—Jour. Com.

HON. LUTHER SEVERANCE, editor of the Kennebec Journal, and formerly member of Congress, has been appointed Commissioner to the Sandwich Islands. There has not been a better appointment made by the present Administration than this one. [Boston Atlas.]

THE ADMINISTRATION.

In the short time that has elapsed since the Administration of General TAYLOR held the reins of Government, (says the Boston Daily Advertiser,) the People have repeatedly had occasion to congratulate themselves upon the manner in which the Foreign policy of the country has been conducted. Under the guidance of this Government we have avoided quarrels, and secured peace upon advantageous terms. The next step is to make peace with those of our neighbors who are in our hands—so far as power is concerned—but who are neither our subjects nor our enemies—we mean the Indians. In Florida the new Administration found some of these exasperated against the Government, and active in attempting, by violent means, to procure their supposed rights. It has subdued and quieted them, and thus added a new boon of peace and repose to the Republic.

On this subject the Baltimore American says:—
"The policy of President TAYLOR in removing the Indians from Florida by peaceful means deserves the hearty approbation of the country. It was easy enough to have provoked a war with those savages—a war of swamp fighting, ambushes, and slaughter, involving the expenditure of millions of dollars. The last Florida war, which continued for five or six years, and was terminated in 1841, did not probably cost less than thirty millions. The sacrifice of life was great, and the hardships of the successive campaigns in the Everglades were of the severest and most trying kind."

"Gen. TAYLOR served in that war. He knew the nature of the country and the character of the Indians, and doubtless dreaded the contingency of another war. By the arrangement recently concluded under the management of General TWIGGS, the whole Indian population is to be peacefully removed from Florida, at an expense to the Government not exceeding \$225,000—a sum which would not suffice for the outfit and pay of a regiment for one campaign."

"We repeat that the PRESIDENT, by this policy, has rendered a service to the country worthy of its most cordial approval. A good is always achieved by the avoidance of an evil. It may be that the result of such wise forbearance and circumspect sagacity may not show forth with brilliancy—but the patriotic and the observant know how to appreciate it."

THE CONSTITUTION OF MARYLAND.

On Thursday last the Senate of Maryland passed the bill, which had previously passed the House of Delegates, proposing to ascertain the sense of the People of that State as to the expediency of calling a Convention to revise their Constitution and frame of Government. The bill has thus become a law, and the people are required to vote on the question on the second Wednesday in May next. If a majority of them shall determine in favor of the measure, the Governor is directed to order an election to be held on the first Wednesday of September next for Delegates to the Convention, who are to assemble at Annapolis on the first Monday in November, to discharge the duties confided to them; and such form of Constitution as they may adopt is to be submitted for approval or rejection by the People of the State on the first Wednesday in June, 1851.

So guarded, we do not see any reason to question the wisdom of the measure. But, taking time for the forelock, we adjure our friends in Maryland never to suffer any amendment, or rather any change in the Constitution, which shall include a Judiciary subjected to periodical popular election.

FROM VERA CRUZ.—The schr. Water-witch, from Vera Cruz the 8th inst., has arrived at New Orleans, and brings intelligence that the U. S. steamer Walker, from Mobile, arrived at that port on the 27th ultimo. This is the vessel on which Gov. LETCHER, our Minister to Mexico, took passage, and about which, on account of unusual delays on her voyage, serious apprehensions were beginning to be felt. Her passengers and crew are reported all well.

An error of the press which occurred in the Editorial columns of this paper on Saturday last requires correction, unless we would directly contradict our own construction of the doctrine of the Right of Instruction. The sentence in which it occurs is the following:

"The Senator is elected for a certain period, to perform certain duties prescribed in the Constitution itself, for the discharge of which he is responsible only to God and his constituents, except that moral responsibility which every human agent owes to society to act honestly in all things."

It ought to read as follows:

"The Senator is elected for a certain period, to perform certain duties prescribed in the Constitution itself, for the discharge of which he is responsible only to God and his conscience, except that moral responsibility which every human agent owes to society to act honestly in all things."

The New York "Commercial" is in error when it throws out the intimation that the "dissatisfied spirit of the South is pretty much concentrated at the Capitol in Washington, and that, if it exists elsewhere to any extent, it exists in a state of very considerable diffusion"—in error, we mean, if it would seek to produce the impression at the North that there is no need for the ultraists in that section to cease their present course and agitation. We admit, and we are glad of it, that the politicians are ahead of the people. This will prevent the politicians from pushing their intentions beyond what the people will permit. But the North ought to know and to be informed that there is throughout the South a very "concentrated" and deep feeling on the subject in question, and that there is great danger in urging matters any further. The Conservative Union Republican party at the South are doing all they can to allay excitement and to restrain evil action. They will not weary in well doing. But they hope to see a corresponding action on the part of the friends of the Union at the North. The South must not be driven to the wall by the fanaticism of Northern disturbers. Let the friends of the Union now unite to do justice and to save the country.—Alex. Gazette.

ARCHITECTURE AND THE SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION.—We understand that the Regents, at their last meeting, adopted Mr. HANCOCK's scheme of an Architectural Gallery, noticed some time since in the public prints. It differs from similar establishments in European countries in its select character. It is proposed, in fact, to be a collection of models or masterpieces of architecture, executed in a style corresponding with other productions of the gallery. We like the liberality of this provision. Architecture is to be encouraged only by treating its professors with respect in our institutions of learning, and by honoring its best productions in our galleries of art with something more than a wood-cut or carpenter's elevation.

COLLECTION OF THE REVENUE.—THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY has directed the Collectors to suspend the operation of his circulating circular of a previous date. The revenue cutters are to be continued in active service, as heretofore. The expenses attending the appraisement of merchandise are no longer to be charged to importers, and the expenses for weighing, gauging, and measuring goods are only to be charged to the owners of such goods in cases where it is required that such charge shall be made by Mr. Walker's tariff law of 1846. The compensation of Officers of the Customs is to be no longer withheld.

FOR CALIFORNIA.—The California fever still rages. The steamers of all the lines to Chagres for two months to come, are full of passengers by engagement, and tickets can only be obtained at the agents. The number of sailing vessels advertised and loading at New York, is about fifty. Thirteen are up directly for Sacramento City, and the remainder, thirty-five, for San Francisco. Of the latter twenty are ships.—Jour. Com.

A CARD FROM HON. T. BUTLER KING.

WASHINGTON, FEBRUARY 23, 1850.
To the Editors of the National Intelligencer.
GENTLEMEN: Permit me to state in your columns that my illness in California and subsequent long-continued debility—my numerous pressing engagements since my arrival here, and the effects of a recent indisposition, which has paralyzed my energies for some days, have delayed much longer than I intended or expected my report on California. But I cannot longer permit the public mind to be assailed, perhaps misled, by insinuations, inquiries, and innuendoes, which, if not promptly answered, may be considered as acquiesced in; or bold assertions—if misrepresentation has assumed that form—no pass uncontradicted. I, therefore, assert that I did not receive, in connexion with my duties in California, nor have I at any time received, secret instructions, whether verbal or written, from the President of the United States, or any member of his Cabinet, on the subject of slavery or any other subject. I did not attempt to influence the people of California to decide the question of slavery one way or the other; and any assertion that I did receive such instructions or attempt to exercise such influence is false. Any insinuations or insidious inquiries which are so framed or intended as to induce the people to believe that the President or any member of his Cabinet did give, or that I could be base enough to receive, such instructions, I declare to be totally without foundation in fact and without the shadow of truth.

I beg leave to call the attention of the public to some facts, which will show what was done by the late Administration to induce the people of California to form a State Government. I arrived at San Francisco on the fourth of June, in the steamer Panama; we did not stop at Monterey; nor did I see or hold any communication with Gen. RILEY until about the middle of that month, when he came to San Francisco. His proclamation calling a State constitution is dated at Monterey—one hundred and thirty miles from San Francisco—the third of June. The last paragraph of this proclamation is in the following words:

"The method here indicated to attain what is desired by all, viz. a more perfect political organization, is deemed the most direct and safe that can be adopted, and one fully authorized by law. It is the course advised by the President, and by the Secretaries of State and of War of the United States, and is calculated to avoid the innumerable evils which necessarily result from any attempt at illegal legislation. It is, therefore, hoped it will meet the approbation of the people of California, and that all good citizens will unite in carrying it into execution."

The steamer in which I was a passenger to San Francisco was the first conveyance to carry to the people of California the intelligence of the inauguration of President TAYLOR and the appointment of his Cabinet—so that, at the date of Gen. RILEY's proclamation, it was not possible that he could have received any communication from the present Administration. The President of the United States to whom he refers was Mr. POLK, the Secretary of State Mr. BUCHANAN, the Secretary of War Mr. MARCY. It was in accordance with the recommendations of this proclamation, sustained as they are in President POLK's last annual message, that the people of California acted in forming their State constitution. I always addressed the people of California in my private character, and never assumed any official position among them. Interested as I am in slave labor, as a Georgian and a Southern citizen, I was prepared to expect that the objects of my mission would be perverted in the North; and I find accordingly that during the last fall elections in that quarter I was there represented as a Southern slaveholder sent to California to indoctrinate the people in my opinions about slavery. This was a base falsehood; but it is not half so base as an attempt to impress on the public mind that I was sent to coerce or influence California to exclude slavery.

T. BUTLER KING.

PENNSYLVANIA LEGISLATURE.

HARRISBURG, FEBRUARY 22.
SENATE.—The Senate organized at 10 A. M. The resolutions relative to the integrity of the Union of the States, introduced by Mr. MATTHIAS, were taken up and adopted, as follows:

Whereas the Members of the General Assembly of Pennsylvania have seen with deep regret, in several sections of our happy and glorious Republic, indications of dissatisfaction with our fundamental organization, as embraced in our constitution, and an apparent disposition upon the part of some to effect a radical change; and whereas these feelings of dissatisfaction toward that sacred instrument the People of Pennsylvania do not participate in; therefore

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, in General Assembly met, That the Union is identified with all the glories of the past, all the blessings of the present, and all the hopes of the future; and that Pennsylvania, true to the constitution and all its principles, will never waver in her fidelity to that noble charter.

Resolved, That the Governor of this Commonwealth be requested to forward a copy of the foregoing to the Governor of each of the States and Territories, and to the President of the Senate and Speaker of the House of Representatives of the United States.

Immediately after the adoption of the resolutions the Members of the Senate proceeded to the hall of the House of Representatives, when, after the "Farewell Address" had been read, they adjourned.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.—This being the anniversary of the birth-day of Washington, in accordance with a resolution of the House, Mr. MECK and Mr. JONES, the committee for that purpose appointed, introduced the Senate, Governor, and Heads of Departments into the Hall of the House, when the Clerk read "Washington's Farewell Address to the People of the United States." After which, the persons introduced retired, and the body adjourned.

DECISION IN THE CASE OF MRS. GAINES.—A despatch from New Orleans states that Judge McCLELLAN, on Thursday last, gave a decision adverse to the suit of Mrs. GAINES, involving a claim to a large amount of property, which has been in litigation for some time. Judge McKINLEY, it appears, did not coincide in the opinion given. The case will probably be brought before the Supreme Court.

COLLECTION OF THE REVENUE.—THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY has directed the Collectors to suspend the operation of his circulating circular of a previous date. The revenue cutters are to be continued in active service, as heretofore. The expenses attending the appraisement of merchandise are no longer to be charged to importers, and the expenses for weighing, gauging, and measuring goods are only to be charged to the owners of such goods in cases where it is required that such charge shall be made by Mr. Walker's tariff law of 1846. The compensation of Officers of the Customs is to be no longer withheld.

FOR CALIFORNIA.—The California fever still rages. The steamers of all the lines to Chagres for two months to come, are full of passengers by engagement, and tickets can only be obtained at the agents. The number of sailing vessels advertised and loading at New York, is about fifty. Thirteen are up directly for Sacramento City, and the remainder, thirty-five, for San Francisco. Of the latter twenty are ships.—Jour. Com.

HON. LUTHER SEVERANCE, editor of the Kennebec Journal, and formerly member of Congress, has been appointed Commissioner to the Sandwich Islands. There has not been a better appointment made by the present Administration than this one. [Boston Atlas.]

TO THE EDITORS.

GENTLEMEN: I observe that, for some weeks past, you have selected and republished such expressions of sentiment from the Southern country as indicate an indisposition on the part of its people to participate in any measure of resistance to the action of the Government in regard to slavery. I fully appreciate the motive which prompts you to this course; I recognize it as an effort on your part to strengthen the Union. Allow me to say, however, that the very opposite result from that which you intend and desire may follow this proceeding on your part. You are conductors of a journal which has a wide circulation, and which carries with it an influence over public sentiment, especially throughout the Northern States, second to that of no paper published in the United States; and your opinions are received by numerous readers as conclusive upon public questions.

I share your desire to avert the calamities which threaten us, and your anxiety to save the Union does not exceed mine. My attachment to the Union is sincere and profound; I have never yet attempted to calculate its value, nor have I at any moment permitted myself to let its disruption as a remedy for political evils. If there be within the United States a class of men who aim or desire to break up the Union which embraces the American States, I wish it to be understood that I do not belong to that class. My object has been, and still is, and shall be, the preservation of the Union; but I desire to preserve it in its spirit, in its power, and in its glory. I wish to keep alive the soul which animates it, and without which it cannot exist—the Constitution.

Having thus freely stated my sentiments, I may be allowed to say that I am confident the dangers which attend the question now so deeply affecting the public mind are underrated. There exists on the part of the Southern people a lively sensibility in regard to the slave question; and as I believe, to suffer no encroachments on their rights in relation to the property which that question affects. Any act of Congress, for instance, which should abolish slavery in this District, or interfere with the slave trade between the States, or exclude the people of the slaveholding States from fixing their residence in the territory lately acquired from Mexico, holding and enjoying without molestation their property of every description, would certainly lead to measures of resistance; convulsions would follow, and a disruption of the Union might ensue.

It is not to be supposed for a moment that the Union can be maintained by force. It is to be preserved by a wise, magnanimous, patriotic policy on the part of the Government. By cherishing a sincere respect for the institutions of the different sections of these wide-spread States; by forbearance when there springs up a conflict of sentiment between them; by observing the Constitution in its pristine spirit—this can save the Union, but bayonets cannot.

It ought to be understood that the country is at this moment in danger, and that the remedy for impending troubles is to be found in a generous and patriotic use of power on the part of the MAJORITY.

For one, I believe that there is patriotism enough in the country to save it—a patriotism which belongs alike to the North and to the South; and I believe that, if the condition of the country could be comprehended, this patriotism would rally to its rescue, as men rush to save a gallant ship on a lee shore. The North would display its ancient spirit in behalf of the country, and would put forth its strength to save it; not by mustering an armed force to march down upon a brave people indignant at what they conceive to be a great wrong, but by calling on its Representatives to forbear the exercise of even a doubtful power, and to respect the sentiment of a kindred people.

Having lost neither heart nor hope for the country, confiding still in the patriotism of the American people, I have, in my place in the House of Representatives, spoken out freely, and uttered truthful statements of what I conceived to be the rights, the feelings, and the purposes of the people from whom I come; and I write to you now to urge you to let the real condition of the country be seen, by a full exposition of the sentiment which pervades the Southern people. I need not say that I do not question the purpose with which your course is guided; so far from it, I honor your motives. You are well known to me, gentlemen, and I am familiar with the pages of the Intelligencer, so that I am confident in your understanding and appreciation of my frankness. The trusty manner in which the lead from the vessel's side cannot make known the dangers which surround it; his notes of warning may interrupt for a moment the tranquility of the crew; but, when they reach the deeper waters and the broader seas, they will hail him as their deliverer.

Recognizing, as Dr. Franklin did, the hand of Providence in the affairs of our country, I look to Him who guides the universe, as I am sure you look, to deliver us from the great dangers which now surround us. Very respectfully,
H. W. HILLIARD.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 1850.

OBITUARY.

Died, on Saturday afternoon last, at the Irving Hotel, in this city, General JOHN MCNEIL, a distinguished officer of the war of 1812. His arrival from Boston, where he was Surveyor of the Port, was but just announced to us when we were apprized of his death. This was sudden and unexpected to us, though we since learn that he has long been declining, and suffered much from a painful and protracted illness. He was born in Hillsborough, New Hampshire, and at the time of his death was in the 66th year of his age. In 1812 he entered the army as a captain of infantry, and served with great distinction in that second war of independence. In 1814 he belonged to the first brigade, commanded by Gen. Scott, which opened a most glorious career of arms, in crossing the Niagara Straits and encountering the British veterans of the peninsular war. At the battle of Chippewa McNeill commanded the advance of Scott's brigade, the 11th regiment, Col. Campbell having been wounded in the early part of the action. In crossing the creek the leading regiment of the column encountered a most murderous fire, by which in a few moments forty men were cut down. He advanced steadily on, with Jeap's regiment next, and at the distance of thirty paces from the enemy they deployed into line; McNeill, of heroic frame and stentorian voice, called aloud, "Give it to them—take vengeance on them, boys." And again, at the battle of Bridgewater, he had the honor to lead the celebrated Scott's brigade into action, in the face of a British battery of nine guns. In less than an hour the whole brigade was literally cut to pieces. As Ripley and Porter's brigades came into action McNeill rebuked his energies; when the 22d infantry broke, (his Colonel, Brady, having fallen.) McNeill rallied and reformed it. At this period of the action his horse was killed by a cannon ball and himself wounded in both legs by canister shot, a six-ounce ball passing directly through his right knee. At the close of the war he was retained in the army, and served on the Lakes and the Mississippi till 1829, when he was appointed a commissioner to negotiate with the Sac and Fox Indians. At the conclusion of his mission he repaired to Washington, and subsequently resigned his appointment in the army, but only to serve his country in a civil capacity. He was appointed Surveyor of the Port of Boston, which office he filled till the day of his death.

LIABILITY OF RAILROADS.—THE CASE OF MOORE vs. THE ALBANY AND SYRACUSE RAILROAD COMPANY, has occupied the attention of the Court for two or three days. The jury returned a verdict for the plaintiff of \$3,000. This case has excited a good deal of interest, from the fact that it involved the question of the extent of the liability of railroad companies for injuries to passengers. The plaintiff was scalded and otherwise injured by the collision that took place between here and Syracuse in 1848. The main question was, whether the company had used all proper diligence and caution to prevent the collision. The investigation of this point required a long examination of witnesses.

THE CHOLERA AMONG THE EMIGRANTS.—We learn that nine deaths from Cholera have occurred among the emigrants at Ward Island since Sunday last, viz. on Monday 5, on Tuesday 3, and on Wednesday 1; making a total of 22 since its first appearance there. The amount of sickness on the Island is unprecedented. Out of a population of about 2,000, nine hundred are on the sick list. Since the cases originated on the Island, but by far the larger proportion were landed in their present condition from the ships on which they came. The principal diseases are ophthalmia and typhus fever, besides numerous surgical cases. These furnish abundant food for cholera.—New York Journal of Commerce.

TO THE EDITORS.